GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3823
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Use of UAVs for Inspection of Mines
Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to initiate the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones for inspection of mines alongwith other activities which can be done by using them;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the details of funds allocated for the purpose; and
(d) whether initiatives have been taken to procure UAVs, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Mines has explored the usability of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Technology (UAVs) or drones for the mining sector and has circulated a note on application of Drone in Mining to all State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings like National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Manganese Ore India Limited, Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India with a request to explore the usage and deployment of drone technology vide letter no. 31/46/2016-M.III dated 1.11.2016. The same is available in the website of Ministry of Mines.

(c) and (d): MECL, a Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Mines, has taken initiative to explore the application of Drone technology as Research & Development work for 2016-17. The financial implication on this exercise is estimated to be Rs. 37.03 lakhs.

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